

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A pet mat comprising:

a planar upper surface ~~bounded by a raised peripheral edge;~~

a plurality of raised bumps arranged in a contiguous field on said upper surface in an irregular, asymmetric pattern;

a peripheral edge of the upper surface bounding the contiguous field; and

wherein said plurality of bumps are sized and spaced such that when the bowl is placed anywhere in the contiguous field, the bowl normally falls within interstices of the bumps and is restrained by said bumps in a plurality of non-dedicated locations; wherein said plurality of bumps are sized and spaced such that a bowl is restrained by said bumps in a plurality of non-dedicated locations when the bowl is placed on said upper surface and

a bottom surface resisting sliding with respect to a support surface on which the pet mat is placed.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 1, wherein said raised peripheral edge has an irregular shape.

4. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 3, wherein said raised peripheral edge has a shape that, when viewed from the top of the pet mat, is partially curved and partially straight.

5. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 1, wherein said plurality of bumps further comprises a series of bumps spaced from the raised peripheral edge to prevent a bowl placed on said upper surface from moving toward said raised peripheral edge.

6. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 1, wherein said pet mat is made from a non-stick, tacky material.

7. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 6, wherein said tacky material is natural rubber.

8. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 1, wherein said upper surface further comprises a decorative image and wherein said raised peripheral edge has a shape that is similar to a portion, but not the entirety, of said decorative image.
9. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 8, wherein said decorative image further comprises a pair of paw prints.
10. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 9, wherein each paw print is defined by a plurality of oval digits, each digit having a pair of raised bumps.
11. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 9, wherein each paw print further comprises a circular palm portion adapted to form a location guide for a pet bowl.
12. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 1, further comprising at least one bowl placement locator formed on said upper surface.
13. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 12, wherein said at least one bowl placement locator is part of an ornamental design embossed or imprinted on said upper surface.
14. (currently amended) A pet mat formed from a non-stick, tacky material comprising:
a planar upper surface; ~~bounded by a raised peripheral edge, and~~
a plurality of raised bumps arranged in a contiguous field on said upper surface in an irregular, asymmetric pattern;
a peripheral edge of the upper surface bounding the contiguous field; and,
wherein said plurality of bumps are sized and spaced such that when the bowl is placed anywhere in the contiguous field, the bowl normally falls within interstices of the bumps and is restrained by said bumps in a plurality of non-dedicated locations; ~~wherein said plurality of bumps are sized and spaced such that a bowl placed on said upper surface is restrained by said bumps in a plurality of non-dedicated locations;~~
a bottom surface resisting sliding with respect to a support surface on which the pet mat

is placed; and

wherein said raised peripheral edge has an irregular shape.

15. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 14, wherein said peripheral edge has a shape that, when viewed from the top of the pet mat, is partially curved and partially straight.

16. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 14, wherein said plurality of bumps further comprises a series of bumps spaced from the raised peripheral edge to prevent a bowl placed on said upper surface from moving toward said raised peripheral edge.

17. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 14, wherein said tacky material is natural rubber.

18. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 14, wherein said upper surface further comprises a decorative image and wherein said raised peripheral edge has a shape that is similar to a portion, but not the entirety, of said decorative image.

19. (original) A pet mat in accordance with claim 18, wherein said decorative image further comprises a pair of paw prints, each paw print being defined by a plurality of oval digits and a circular palm portion that is adapted to form a location guide for a pet bowl.

20. (new) A pet mat for a pet bowl, the pet mat comprising:

an upper surface comprising a contiguous field of bumps bounded by a raised endless peripheral edge, the edge damming the upper surface to restrain spillage from the pet bowl;

a bottom surface resisting sliding with respect to a surface on which the pet mat is placed.